

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07649 041504Z

44

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5606

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7649

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: NEW BOOK BY SID AHMAD

REF STATE 182189

1. AS DEPT AWARE, MUHAMMAD SID AHMAD IS ONE OF DWINGLING GROUP OF MIDDLE AGED COMMUNIST INTELLECTUALS WHO WERE EDUCATED IN PARIS. HE AND HIS INTIMATE FRIEND LUTFI AL-KHULI ARE BOTH ON AHRAM STAFF AND REPRESENT OLD-LINE MARXIST VIEWS IN EGYPT. SID AHMAD IS PROBABLY HIGH-RANKING MEMBER OF EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST PARTY.
2. SID AHMAD HAS BEEN TELLING US ABOUT HIS BOOK SINCE LAST NOVEMBER. EARLY IN YEAR HE TOLD EMBOFF HE COULD NOT BE SURE IF BOOK WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED IN EGYPT BUT THAT HE EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE NO PROHIBITION SINCE BOOK WOULD BE SCHOLARLY DISCUSSION OF HOW ISRAEL COULD FIT INTO OVERALL ME PEACE SETTLEMENT.
3. BOOK, PUBLISHED IN BEIRUT IS, IN FACT, ON SALE HERE BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAS NOT CAUSED GREAT STIR. PART OF REASON IS PROBABLY THAT, AS USUAL, SID AHMAD HAS CHOSEN TO WRITE IN A SCHOLARLY STYLE WHICH WOULD SEEM HIGH-FALUTING CLASSISM TO ANY BUT WELL EDUCATED READER.
4. DEPT ASKS WHY BOOK WAS WRITTEN. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT BE

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SURE OF POSSIBLE SOVIET ROLE IN GENESIS OF BOOK, IT SHOULD BE

NOTED THAT SID AHMAD IS A PROFESSIONAL WRITER WITH AN ON-GOING
AND COMPELLING INTEREST IN POLITICS OF ME AND OF EGYPT.
WE ARE PREPARING A BRIEF SUMMARY TRANSLATION NOW AND WILL FORWARD
ANY FURTHER COMMENTS WHEN THIS IS COMPLETE.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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